

"I admit that lawyers do not support themselves by planting potatoes or plowing corn, though there is many an attorney who would bless himself and the bar and bless all of us if he struck his name off the court rolls and entered it on the books of an agricultural society.

"We are not, as a profession, physically speaking, like Pharoah's lean kine. Those pictures which Dickens, that prince of slanderers, and others like him, draw and call attorneys, are nothing but atrocious libels.

"From time immemorial, size, physical as well as mental, has been considered one of the qualifications of a judge. Justice and corpulence seem to dwell together. There appears to be a mysterious and inexplicable connection between legal lore and large abdomens. I do not know why this is, unless it be that in order that Justice may not easily be moved by the foibles and passions of men she requires as firm and as broad a foundation as possible.

"George Washington's hatchet is not popularly regarded as one of the heirlooms of the legal family. I can say, that for over thirty years I have been a judge, and of the many thousands of lawyers who have appeared before me, I have never found but a single one upon whose word I could not depend.

"While other professions and vocations are constantly putting on striped clothes, how seldom does any lawyer respond to a warden's roll-call?

"The business man needs us to draw his contracts, the laborer to collect his wages, the doctor to save him from the consequence of his mistakes, the preacher to compel the payment of his salary, the wife to obtain a divorce and the widow to settle the husband's estate. The people need us in the Legislature and in Congress to hold the offices and draw the salaries. Every convention and public meeting needs us to fill the chair and occupy comfortable seats on the platform. Every man accused of crime needs us to establish his innocence through the verdict of twelve of his peers.

"In short, it may be said of us, in the language of the itinerant vendor of soap, 'everybody needs us,' and, like that very useful article, nothing tends to keep society so clean as the presence of a lawyer.

"Blot from American history the lawyer and all that he has done, and you will rob it of more than half its glory. Remove